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Farm Broadcasters Letter



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Letter No. 2274

August 7, 1986

AID FOR
DROUGHT-
STRICKEN
FARMERS

Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng on Aug. 1 announced significant new and expanded programs to aid drought-stricken farmers in Southeastern states. Over \$1 billion worth of crops--including peanuts and tobacco--in the affected areas is covered under USDA's crop insurance program. Under the Feed Cost-Sharing Program, USDA will share with livestock producers the cost of purchasing feedgrains, including hay. The cost-sharing payments will be made in generic certificates and farmers can convert the certificates into cash or to redeem them for Commodity Credit Corporation commodities. CCC is moving grain from storage facilities in the Midwest to areas in the Southeast where storage is available. Lyng also authorized a nationwide, across-the-board 10 pct. increase in 1986 advance deficiency payments, at a cost of \$1 billion.

YUGO. MAY
PURCHASE
U.S. WHEAT

Heavy rains during harvest have apparently caused substantial deterioration in the quality of Yugoslavia's crop. If problems are severe, Yugoslavia may increase imports of U.S. wheat, despite a new import levy on grain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Yugoslavia announced that wheat imports, including those under USDA's Export Enhancement Program, will be exempt from the levy as long as domestic supplies are insufficient. Yugoslavia is expected to import about 400,000 tons of wheat in 1986/87 - July/June.

SOVIET GRAIN
PRODUCTION
INCENTIVES

Unusual inducements are being offered to Soviet farms to exceed their grain and pulse production plans, according to a Soviet agricultural newspaper. Reportedly, the State Agro-Industrial Committee will give those farms which over produce the right to purchase additional trucks, tractors, cement, lumber and other hard-to-find materials. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this action must be regarded as an incentive very different from, and possibly more effective than, the usual incentives that take the form of financial bonuses or rewards.

JULY DAIRY
PROGRAM
SLAUGHTER

During the week ending July 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates 24,700 head of dairy cattle were slaughtered in federally-inspected plants as a result of the Dairy Termination Program. The cumulative total of cattle slaughtered under the program from April through July 19 is an estimated 592,600 head.

U.S. AG. TRADE Cumulative U.S. agricultural exports during Oct.-June 1986 totaled \$20 billion, 800 million, down \$4.7 billion - that's 18 pct. - from the same period a year earlier, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Export volume during the first nine months of fiscal 1986 totaled nearly 85½ million tons, off approximately 17 pct. from just over 103 million tons exported during the first nine months of fiscal 1985. Export commodities experiencing the sharpest year-to-year market declines thus far in fiscal 1986 include wheat, corn, grain sorghum, barley, cotton, soybean oil and sunflowerseeds.

U.S. AG. IMPORTS U.S. agricultural imports for Oct.-June 1986 came to \$15 billion, 900 million, up 5 pct. from the Oct.-June 1985 total, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Imports for June 1986 totaled \$1 billion, 600 million, down 5 pct. from the same month a year earlier and 14 pct. below May 1986. The trend appears to be returning to normal following an upsurge in coffee and fresh tomato imports in May. The overall net surplus of agricultural trade during Oct.-June 1986 amounted to \$4 billion, 900 million, down 52 pct. from a new surplus of \$10 billion, 300 million during Oct.-June 1985.

OILSEEDS & PRODUCTS U.S. exports of oilseeds and products reached 1 million 400 thousand tons in June 1986, 30 pct. higher than June 1985, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The value of oilseed and products exports for June was nearly \$335½ million, up 10 pct. from last year. U.S. exports of soybeans, soybean meal, and peanuts were all at higher levels for June compared to year-ago levels. Exports of soybeans for the 1985/86 fiscal year to date total \$3 billion, the highest value for a single U.S. agricultural commodity.

GRAIN AGREEMENT IN SO. AMER. Argentina and Brazil signed a new five-year grain agreement under which Brazil will purchase a minimum of nearly 1½ million tons of Argentine wheat the first year and increasing amounts each year thereafter, up to a minimum of 2 million tons in the last year of the agreement, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In light of prospects for another bumper Brazilian wheat crop and a prior Brazilian agreement to purchase a minimum of 750,000 tons of Canadian wheat, U.S. wheat exports, which once comprised 60 pct. of Brazil's imports, could be displaced.

REVISED DAIRY TERMINATION PROGRAM About 57,000 fewer dairy cattle than indicated earlier will be slaughtered in Aug. as a result of contract modifications under the Dairy Termination Program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A total of 1,116 program participants with contracts to dispose of their dairy cattle in the first contract disposal period, April 1 - Aug. 31, have modified their contracts opting for a later disposal period.

WHEAT TO RUSSIA Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng made the following statement on Aug. 1: "The President has authorized me to announce that he has decided today to make U.S. wheat available to the Soviet Union at current world market prices in sufficient quantity to fulfill the terms of the U.S./Soviet Long Term Grain Agreement. The unfulfilled portion of the contract calls for the Soviets to purchase 4 million metric tons of U.S. wheat by Sept. 30."

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

WHEAT SALES TO SOVIET UNION...Sec'y of Agriculture Richard Lyng describes how the U.S. plans to use provisions of USDA's Export Enhancement Program to fulfill a contract with the Soviet Union calling for sale of four million metric tons of wheat. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (246)

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM...Dep. Sec'y of Agriculture Peter Myers outlines new and current provisions under the Conservation Reserve Program and talks about the advantages of this program for farmers. Vic Powell interviews. (247)

DROUGHT AID...The USDA has placed into operation a number of intensified efforts to help farmers in the Southeast drought. Earle Bedenbaugh with USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service examines these new and expanded programs. Vic Powell interviews. (248)

BEAN CONSUMPTION IN THE U.S....USDA economist Neil Conklin takes a look at the decline in bean consumption in the U.S. and the affect of this decline on producers. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (249)

RIDGE TILLAGE...Marcian Hausman, a farmer from Tuscola, Ill., describes how farmers might be able to reduce production costs substantially by switching to a ridge tillage system. Gary Beaumont interviews. (250)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1523...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Did you know there's wheat for baking bread, another making pastries and still another for making pastries and still another for making pasta? On this edition of Agriculture USA Jim Johnson talks to Warren Kronstad, Oregon State University professor of plant breeding, about the efforts to develop a new bread type wheat for the Pacific Northwest.


AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1512...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; A sheep referendum; Conservation Reserve; The Chesapeake Bay is being given new life by farmers; Lightning and its dangers.

CONSUMER TIME #1005...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Drought and food prices; Retirement planning; Save the bones; Postponing children; Is a pension enough.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Tues, Aug. 19, Weekly weather and crop report; Farm labor report; Agricultural outlook; Wed, Aug. 20, Catfish outlook. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Brent Thompson is leaving Brownfield Network, Centertown, Missouri, as of Aug. 12 to work at KWTO, Springfield, MO. Consequently, Brownfield Net is looking for his replacement. For more information, call Roger Gardner at 314-636-5141. Incidentally we got the word of the change from Gary Digiuseppe and at the same time learned that Gary and his wife Mary are new parents (for the first time). The new family member is Andrew born Aug. 3. Our congratulations! ... Bill Liermann is no longer at Agriculture Broadcasting Net in Columbus, Ohio. Valerie Parks is the new staff member at ABN ... Orion Samuelson and Max Armstrong (WGN, Chicago) have a new phone number...and new quarters. WGN Radio moved to the Tribune Tower at 435 N. Michigan Ave. Their new phone number is 312-222-5090 ... Radonna Long left KGNC, Amarillo, Texas, July 30, to pursue a career in media or public relations work. Farm Director at the station Bob Givens has hired Laurey Wright to help him in the farm department ... Many of you know Rex Messersmith, so you'll be interested in this item from KRVN, Lexington, NE. Rex is the new manager of KRVN's sister station KNEB in Scottsbluff, NE. Back aways in his career, Rex was farm director at WNAX, Yankton, No. Dakota ... Richard Carvell, station manager at KASU, Arkansas State Univ., Jonesboro, Ark, reports the station has a new farm broadcaster. She is Karen Jones. KASU's former farm broadcaster Greg Chance is the station's new news director ... Stations receiving our CONSUMER TIME weekly radio tape series will a notice a new feature. Doug Wakefield, who used to be on our radio staff and is now working with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, is producing a weekly feature for the CT series. Each feature will "profile" a country's food buying and eating habits and other interesting bits of information. Knowing Doug, they'll be well produced, so watch for them.


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Farm Broadcasters Letter
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